

# Vintage American Race Cars Traveling Museum

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## July 2021

### Notes from our President Jim McDermott

The season looks like it is going quite well and we have had good participation from members. Car counts have been respectable and many different members have been attending the events. The feedback that I have been getting from many sources has been positive and that is encouraging. After the rough season last year, this is a real indication of the dedication and effort put forth by many people that go above the call.

Now having said that you might be asking “where have you been”? My answer is going to be tempered with frustration and plain embarrassment. We have been struggling with the rottenest streak of luck and it dates to last year. Our hauling truck has been nothing short of an evil monster! Starting early this spring, we tried to get the darn thing running but have been met with nothing but frustration and confusion. After working weeks on end changing a mountain of parts and a ton of money, we still could not get a spark of life from that old engine. Having tried everything in the books I was losing my mind. Then one day while I was complaining to my wife, she offered a suggestion.” Have you checked for water in the gas”? Well of course not, it could not get water in the gas. I finally suggested to Terry “hey let’s get a fuel sample off the injector rail”. No, it couldn’t be!!!! Solid water shooting out of the fuel rail.

This brought about draining the fuel tank and out of 30 gallons in the tank there must have been 10 gallons of water. I just felt as dumb as a person could be. Some mechanic, right? That is only the beginning!! flush the fuel system, new filter, injectors, spark plugs, coil packs, fuel pump. Still not running right!!!

I borrowed a truck and hauled to the Ohio Valley Speedway. Now if I had no luck with the hauler, I had none at the track. Got pushed off for the feature and the car jumps out of gear and refused to cooperate. One lap in front of the push truck was the extent of my race... Upon inspection at home found that I broke the driveshaft in half. That was after tearing the whole shifting mechanism apart.

For my next attempt I was determined to head to Oakshade, one of my favorite tracks. We got about twenty miles from home and the truck developed a bad miss and loss of power. Turned about and went home!!!

Now if the creek doesn’t rise and the sun shines, I plan on getting to Wayne County one way or another. So, before you read this, I hope to see you at the track and enjoy your company. I have missed out on that.

The remainder of the season is looking good just need to dodge the weather and keep showing up for the fun. Thanks for your efforts and dedication.

Jim McDermott

## Notes from our New Vice-President Carl Robinson

The racing season has started off with some great racing at some historic speedways. I didn't make it to the first couple races as we were not quite ready yet. But we started off at the fan and driver favorite Shady Bowl speedway. The odd shaped track and it's banking makes it one of the most fun tracks we run on. I haven't driven on an asphalt track in over 30 years. I was a dirt track lover. But this track changed my mind very quickly. What a blast to drive. I must say after looking at the videos of the two races that Rhonda shot, it looked like we put on a really good show with a good cross section of vintage cars. I looked at the crowd and they were really into our racing. We all thank Bob Shelhorn for bringing his big barn fan as we were all hiding out under my trailer awning for shade. Bob Shelhorn won the feature. Butch Evans said that it was a gimme race for Bob as he had broken down on the way to the track. I had won the heat race so under our rule of share the flag I couldn't win the feature. I figured I'd run second. At the green, Bob took off and I forgot about Bob and thought John Lawhorn was the leader. So, I stayed on John's hip all race only to find out from my mechanic Chris Stillion that I finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. How did I miss that yellow and red Camaro? Maybe next time I'll pay attention.

Next on the schedule was historic Kil-Kare speedway which has been around for over 60 years. It is a 3/8<sup>th</sup> mile track shaped like a "D" and is a real drivers track. Jeff Nuckles and his partners asked us if VARC could supply a car for some promo television segments. Jim asked me if I would go and represent VARC. So, Rhonda and I got up at 4:30 am and traveled to Xenia, Ohio for some on track video to promote the race. The promo ran live on channel 2 and they gave us a great plug. Sunday afternoon's race was HOT. It was 93 degrees and not a cloud in the sky that day. Again, from the video I think we put on a good race for the fans. The feature was won by Butch Evans.

Ohio Valley Speedway, just outside of Parkersburg, West Virginia, called Jim early in the year and asked if VARC would come down and race. Again, the call was put out for cars and our members responded to put on a good show. This was in Butch Evans' old stomping grounds and he showed us the way around the 3/8<sup>th</sup> mile dirt track. Bob Shelhorn said he was broken down in Kansas, but Butch claims he didn't want the BIG BLOCK Camaro beaten by his little red midget. The friendly verbal battle goes on until they finally run against each other. Maybe Oakshade will finally see the fun-loving war of words put this to bed. I think this will be settled at our last race at Atomic. Followed by the words of, "Wait until next year."



It is so much fun seeing everyone, racing and talking to our fans.

I have been following our Facebook page and counting the likes and how many shared our videos and pleased to see how many people are following VARC. We put on a good show and have fun doing it.

In general, we need to improve on getting lined up right away and keep the show moving. I know you don't want to hear this, but I think we need a pit steward and use our RACEceiver more. If we don't line up right away, we look bad and the fans don't like it. The driver in the pole position sets the pace and needs to raise his hand so everyone knows who to line up on. OK, I said my peace and I'll now step down from my soapbox.

Let's go racing and have fun. It's what it's all about.

Carl

## Notes from our Secretary

Melinda Ahleman

I am still looking for stories from our members on why they are vintage racing or how they started racing.

We had a Board Meeting in April, which means there has been some changes. John Morton and Bill Layton have resigned from their Board positions. We elected a new Vice-President, which is Carl Robinson. We are still looking for a Marketing Director.

We had to replace two Board Members, as Dick Slagle resigned and Carl Robinson was elected in as Vice-President. New Board Members are Walt Campbell and Bob Shelhorn.

We will in need of a President next year as Jim McDermott will be resigning at the end of the season.

If you are interested in being the President or Marketing Director please let me know and I will get you an application.

Melinda

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MICHAEL RICHARDSON

ALAN BYERLY

MARC SCHULTZ

DAVID LIMBERGER

MIKE BONTREGER

ROBERT SINKEVITCH

GARY MOURY

BOB KAFFENBERGER

## ANGOLA SPEEDWAY

MAY 29 – 30

VARC ran a combined show with Michiana Vintage Racers for the weekend. What a nice day for a race. Weather was perfect.

There were 10 cars that came out for the first race of the season. What a great turn out.

We were able to get on the track for a practice session,

two Heat races and a Feature.

Angola staff was really great in giving us a lot of track time.

The feature saw a lot of side-by-side racing. John Lawhorn, Ron Gunderman, Dave Ordos, Seth Smith, and Hank Lower put on a great race. When the checkered flag Hank Lower was the winner.



By Melinda Ahleman



# WINCHESTER SPEEDWAY

## JUNE 4 - 5

What a wonderful weekend for racing at the Historic Winchester Speedway for the Winchester Old-Timers Reunion Race. There were about 40 cars on display. Between VARC and MVR we had about 15 cars representing both organizations.



Cars were allowed on the track in 4 different groups. Each group got about 20 minutes of track time. On Friday each group was able to get on the track about 4 different times throughout the day. On Saturday each group was able to get on the track twice.

If you have never been to Winchester it is a MUST see track.

By Melinda Ahleman



# KIL-KARE SPEEDWAY

## JUNE 27

It was a very HOT day in the 90's and the VARC teams tried to find shade anywhere they could.

We had 12 teams take to the tricky  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile "D" shaped track with a good cross section of stock cars and open wheeler cars. After a practice session the teams put their cars on display for the crowd to see close up.

The feature saw 11 cars take to the track with Butch Evans taking the lead at the green. There was a good battle between Butch Evans, John Lawhorn, Carl Robinson and Walt Campbell for the entire 18 laps.

Butch Evans took the checkered flag.

By Carl Robinson



# SHADYBOWL SPEEDWAY

## JUNE 12

It was a warm night at the fun Shadybowl Speedway as 12 VARC teams hid out under Carl Robinson's trailer awing and were cooled by Bob Shelhorn's big barn fan. What a life saver. The VARC teams took to Shadybowl's unique bowl-shaped track and had a great time.



The Heat race saw 11 cars take the track for an 8lap race that was won by Carl Robinson followed by Walt Campbell and John Lawhorn to round out the podium. Bob Shelhorn didn't start due to a dead battery in his Camaro.

The Feature saw Bob Shelhorn and his big block Camaro take the win, (He borrowed a battery from Gene Steele), and was followed by John Lawhorn and Carl Robinson.

By Carl Robinson



# OHIO VALLEY SPEEDWAY

## JULY 2

At Ohio Valley Speedway they had received 2 inches of rain the night before but thanks to the track workers the surface dried out in time for the show. We did not run a heat race but, had a great warm up session with everyone looking for a smooth way around the 3/8-mile track.

This was Butch Evans home track from years past and he showed the rest of the teams he knew his way around the track finishing first in the feature over a hard-fought battle with Carl Robinson. Carl finished second followed by John Lawhorn, Walt Campbell and Chuck Hershman.

By Carl Robinson



# OAKSHADE RACEWAY

## JULY 10

What a good day for racing the weather was perfect. There were 18 cars on hand. With that many cars we were able to run an Open Wheel heat and feature and a Stock heat and feature. Heat races were won by Seth Smith and Walt Campbell. First time Feature winners were Randy Tussing and Mike McWilliams.

Each class put on a great race. Close and steady racing. I would like to THANK the staff at Oakshade Raceway for allowing us to come and to their track personal for all their help with pushing the cars. This track is top notch in what they do.

Unfortunately, Sunday's play day was rained out. Maybe next year.

By Melinda Ahleman



# 2021 Schedule

July 24	Butler Speedway (Michiana Vintage Racers)
July 31	Wayne Co Speedway
August 7 & 8	Johnny Auxter Days at Fremont Speedway (North Coast Vintage)
August 13	Spartan (Michiana Vintage Racers)
August 14	Springport (Michiana Vintage Racers)
August 14	Manchester Reunion
August 20	Moler Speedway
August 21	35 Raceway
August 28	Sandusky Speedway
September 4 & 5	Angola Speedway (Michiana Vintage Racers)
September 18	Atomic Speedway



# For Sale



HATS \$10.00

LOTS OF COLORS



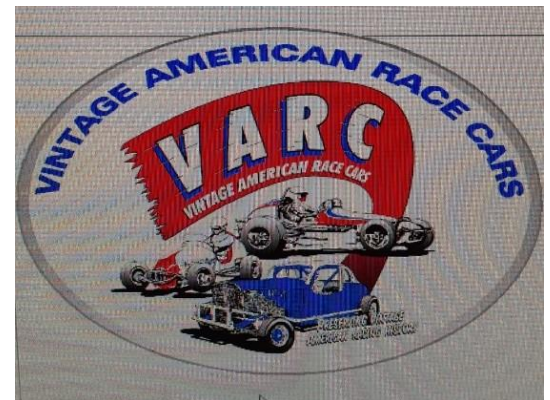
T-SHIRTS \$15.00



Decals

Medium \$5.00

Large \$8.00



Small 2/\$1.00



License Plates \$12.00

Contact Gene Steele at  
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or

Melinda Ahleman at  
[vintageracecars@hotmail.com](mailto:vintageracecars@hotmail.com)

## NEW BANQUET LOCATION

Eagles Post# 712  
2570 W. State St.  
Fremont Ohio 43450

October 30  
5-10 PM



**More information to follow.  
Watch our Facebook site  
and Web Site**

## Motel Information

Comfort Inn  
804 Sean St  
Fremont, OH  
419-355-9300



Ask for VARC Discount

You have until Oct 1 to  
RSVP for our Discount

## Pizza Party

October 29

6 - 10 pm

